

Critical Habitat Designation for the Arctic Ringed Seal

Charge to Peer Reviewers September 2014

Peer Review of the Evaluation of Critical Habitat in the Proposed Rule:

We request that you review the evaluation of critical habitat (specifically, see sections titled “Background” through “Unoccupied Areas”) and provide comments on the following topics:

1. The accuracy, quality, completeness, and relevance of the data considered; particularly whether any additional data exist that were not considered.
2. Whether scientific uncertainties are reasonably identified and characterized.
3. Whether the document provides a well-reasoned rationale for the proposed critical habitat based on the best available data.

Please summarize your comments in a letter that provides a brief overview followed by more detailed responses to the specific review questions identified above.

Peer Review of the Draft Economic Report for Ringed Seal Proposed Critical Habitat:

We request that you review the data considered in the enclosed draft economic report and provide comments on the following topics:

1. The accuracy, quality, and completeness of the data considered, particularly if any additional data exist that were not considered.
2. Whether uncertainties in the data are reasonably identified and characterized.

Please summarize your comments in a letter that provides a brief overview, followed by more detailed responses to the specific review questions identified above.

Prepared by:
Protected Resources Division
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September 2014